

## COUNTY AFFAIRS.

Conference of the Board of Freeholders Over County Expenses for the Coming Year.

The Board of Freeholders held a long conference on Monday afternoon, at which county expenses were the topic of discussion, and the various sub-committees were requested to estimate the amount of funds necessary for the conducting of the several departments of the county government. Director McGowan presided at the conference. Spencer Johnson and County Councilmen Munn were also present. At Director McGowan's suggestion Major Carl Lenz was invited to take part in the conference. Mr. McGowan explaining to his colleagues that the Major, as the leader of the party which is responsible to the people for the management of county affairs, should have a voice in determining the policy of that government and the amount to be raised by taxation.

Each Chairman was called upon in turn and asked what the least possible amount of money his department could get for the year in the ensuing year. After he made his estimate the others then took a hand at estimating, and in most instances the Chairman's figures were considerably reduced before the amount was passed upon and approved. The appropriations decided upon were formally approved by the Finance Committee and later by the full board which met Tuesday night to vote on the budget for the year.

After the list of appropriations had been gone over it was announced that the total amount for running expenses to be placed in the budget would be something like \$15,000 less than the appropriations for the year. The \$100,000 bond issue for the new courthouse will necessitate placing about \$25,000 more than last year in the sinking fund, however, the net saving will be something in the neighborhood of \$20,000, so far as the general county expenses are concerned.

It was decided to appropriate \$10,000 for a speedway in accordance with the provisions of the Bechtel act, and the Freeholders figured on giving \$100,000 to the County Tax Commission for park maintenance, so that the total of the county budget as announced on Tuesday, the 24th, will carry a sum of about \$120,000 in excess of the amount assessed upon the county last year.

Freeholder Hoffman, Chairman of the Finance Committee, said after the meeting that although a \$100,000 appropriation for park maintenance had been figured upon the park commission would have to present a detailed estimate to his committee before any appropriation would be made for park purposes.

It is estimated by the Freeholders that a good portion of the \$120,000 increase in the budget this year will be offset by the increase in rate valuations in the county, which can be determined until the County Board of Assessors meets next month, and that this increase in rates, combined with the \$72,750 increase in State aid and funds the county will receive this year, will offset any increase in the several municipalities if the municipal expenditures are wisely managed.

One of the first questions at the conference was to decide against any increase in salaries of county employees this year. A petition for more wages had been made by the guards at the penitentiary, who receive \$9.00 a month. They asked to be paid \$12 a month, the same as the guards at the jail receive, and their demand was followed by a request from the employees of the county asylum for higher wages.

Both requests were promptly turned down. The biggest cut in expenses decided on was in the appropriation for repairs to county buildings. Freeholder Frank F. Smith is Chairman of the Repair Committee. Last year his committee had an appropriation of \$65,000. This year it will have to get along with \$40,000, and out of that amount will have to spend \$15,000 for building a partition across the big court-room at the court-house, so that separate rooms can be provided for the County Jail, the County Asylum, and the County Jail.

Freeholder Bellman decided that his committee which has charge of the county hospital, could get along with \$6,000 less than last year by close economy, although there was an increase of fifty more patients to care for, and Freeholder Oughtree announced that he had seventeen miles more of county roads to look after than last year, but thought he could get through the year with the same appropriation, \$45,000. The appropriation for court expenses was cut down from \$105,000 to \$100,000, and it was decided to ask the sheriff and prosecutor to co-operate with the Board in enforcing economy in their offices. One item which last year amounted to a large sum, it was pointed out, was the issuance of numerous subpoenas in cases that were never brought to trial, or in which the witnesses subpoenaed were never called. It was suggested that, by exercising greater discretion in the issuing of such papers, the prosecutor's office could materially aid in keeping down expenses.

It cost \$17,500 for expenses at the

last year, and the Freeholders decided that this amount could be reduced \$1,500 without danger to the safety of the county, and the appropriation will be that much less. The appropriation for stationery was reduced \$2,000, and a half dozen other committees were cut down on their allowance, no single appropriation being increased.

## Commissioners Take Testimony

The commissioners appointed by Chief Justice Hamner to condemn the plant of the Orange Water Company, in order that the city of East Orange might acquire it as part of a municipal water supply, met Wednesday morning to take testimony. The commissioners are Amos Doherty, Eugene Vandenberg, and J. William Clark. Mr. Doherty presided. The water company was represented in the proceedings by Joseph L. Munn, and the interests of East Orange were looked after by City Counselor Pennington Wood.

It was agreed by counsel that the city should set forth what it proposed to acquire from the company, and then the company should prove the value of its plant. The first witness was William H. B. Reiner, the city engineer of East Orange. He testified that the Orange Water Company's plant in that place included the following items: 23,371 feet of two-inch pipe, 8,867 feet of six-inch pipe, 11,828 feet of six-inch pipe, and 122,152 feet of four-inch pipe, and 350 hydrants. These figures include all special castings and other appurtenances.

Of the special castings used in the construction of streets, according to the witness, there are 134 four-way, 551 three-way, fifty bends, seventy-four elbows, 207 pipes, and 525 gates. The witness further said that the source of supply consisted of three large open wells and a number of small wells. One of the large wells, he said, is in East Orange, and the others are in this town.

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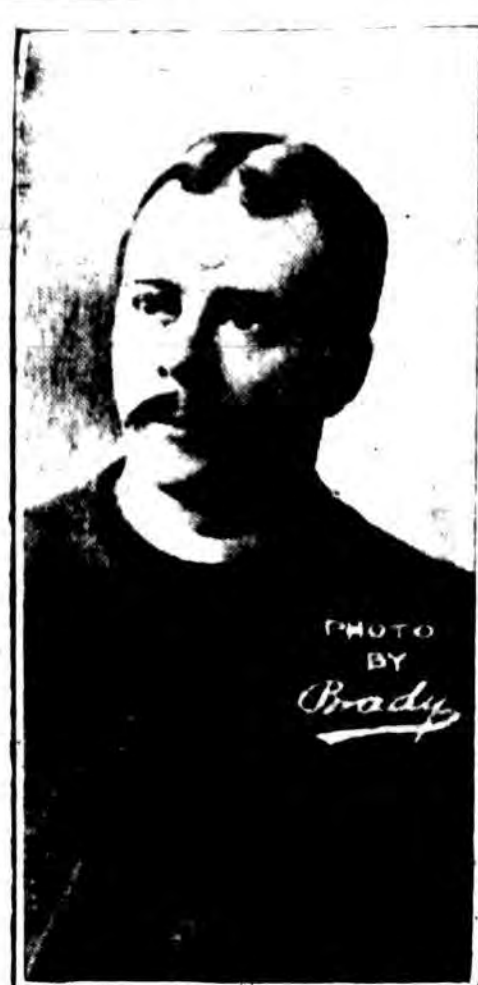
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## Too Much Is Spent on High Schools, Says Rev. Mr. Mann.

Clergyman Talks on Education at Civic Club's Dinner in Orange.

## CHANGES ADVOCATED.



Rev. Charles H. Mann.

## SCHOOL INSPECTION.

Made by the Finance Committee and Other Members of the Town Council. Councilmen Pleaded with the Condition and Conducting of the Schools.

Councilmen W. E. Harrison and John R. Condon constituting the Finance Committee of the Town Council, accompanied by Chairman George Harrison of the Council, and William Higgins Moore, Councilman from the First Ward, made an inspection of the public schools on Thursday. The inspection was not of a mere formal character, but was made with a view to obtaining exact and reliable information with regard to the condition of the schools, and to ascertain what was really possible of being done to improve them.

The inspection was made by the Finance Committee of the Town Council, accompanied by Chairman George Harrison of the Council, and William Higgins Moore, Councilman from the First Ward, made an inspection of the public schools on Thursday. The inspection was not of a mere formal character, but was made with a view to obtaining exact and reliable information with regard to the condition of the schools, and to ascertain what was really possible of being done to improve them.

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## TOWN COUNCIL.

A SHORT AND LIVELY SESSION HELD MONDAY NIGHT.

Tax Appellants Not Entitled to Discontinue Council Accepts an Invitation to Participate in Memorial Day Exercises. Petitions for Street Lights Acted Upon.

The Town Council held a regular meeting on Monday night at which considerable public business was transacted. Councilman Farrand brought a tax case to the attention of the Council for the purpose of ascertaining the right of an appealing taxpayer to the benefits accorded those who make prompt payment of taxes. In the case referred to by Mr. Farrand, the property in question was assessed at \$1,000, and the taxpayer had paid only \$500. The Council decided that the taxpayer was not entitled to the benefits accorded those who make prompt payment of taxes.

The Council also acted upon a petition for street lights presented by the residents of the Third Ward. The Council decided that the petitioners were entitled to street lights, and ordered that the same be installed at once. The Council also acted upon a petition for street lights presented by the residents of the Fourth Ward. The Council decided that the petitioners were entitled to street lights, and ordered that the same be installed at once.

The Council also acted upon a petition for street lights presented by the residents of the Fifth Ward. The Council decided that the petitioners were entitled to street lights, and ordered that the same be installed at once. The Council also acted upon a petition for street lights presented by the residents of the Sixth Ward. The Council decided that the petitioners were entitled to street lights, and ordered that the same be installed at once.

The Council also acted upon a petition for street lights presented by the residents of the Seventh Ward. The Council decided that the petitioners were entitled to street lights, and ordered that the same be installed at once. The Council also acted upon a petition for street lights presented by the residents of the Eighth Ward. The Council decided that the petitioners were entitled to street lights, and ordered that the same be installed at once.

The Council also acted upon a petition for street lights presented by the residents of the Ninth Ward. The Council decided that the petitioners were entitled to street lights, and ordered that the same be installed at once. The Council also acted upon a petition for street lights presented by the residents of the Tenth Ward. The Council decided that the petitioners were entitled to street lights, and ordered that the same be installed at once.

The Council also acted upon a petition for street lights presented by the residents of the Eleventh Ward. The Council decided that the petitioners were entitled to street lights, and ordered that the same be installed at once. The Council also acted upon a petition for street lights presented by the residents of the Twelfth Ward. The Council decided that the petitioners were entitled to street lights, and ordered that the same be installed at once.

The Council also acted upon a petition for street lights presented by the residents of the Thirteenth Ward. The Council decided that the petitioners were entitled to street lights, and ordered that the same be installed at once. The Council also acted upon a petition for street lights presented by the residents of the Fourteenth Ward. The Council decided that the petitioners were entitled to street lights, and ordered that the same be installed at once.

The Council also acted upon a petition for street lights presented by the residents of the Fifteenth Ward. The Council decided that the petitioners were entitled to street lights, and ordered that the same be installed at once. The Council also acted upon a petition for street lights presented by the residents of the Sixteenth Ward. The Council decided that the petitioners were entitled to street lights, and ordered that the same be installed at once.

The Council also acted upon a petition for street lights presented by the residents of the Seventeenth Ward. The Council decided that the petitioners were entitled to street lights, and ordered that the same be installed at once. The Council also acted upon a petition for street lights presented by the residents of the Eighteenth Ward. The Council decided that the petitioners were entitled to street lights, and ordered that the same be installed at once.

## ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTY.

Rules Laid Down by the State Board of Taxation for the Guidance of Assessors in Their Work—Special Emphasis on Constitutional Requirements.

The State Board of Taxation has laid down the work of all local assessors or boards of assessors throughout this State, and can arbitrarily increase or lower assessments in any municipality in this State as in its judgment seems proper. In view of the fact that the time has arrived for making the annual assessment for purposes of taxation, the State Board has issued circular letters and information to the assessors throughout the State. The State Board says: "The special emphasis in the constitutional requirement of assessing property at its true value and value."

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## FIGHT IS OVER.

B. F. Higgins Again Chief Engineer. Appointed by the Town Council Monday Night—Three Nominations Made for the Position—Majority of Firemen Nominated.

Bernard F. Higgins is now serving his fourth consecutive term as Chief Engineer of the Fire Department. He was appointed to that office by the Town Council on Monday night. Chief Higgins has been twice appointed and twice elected to the office he now holds. His appointment ends a contest that has been going on in fire circles for several weeks past, and in which there has been a marvelous amount of misdirected growing indignation.

It is known that the Council would act on the appointment of a Chief Engineer Monday night, and a large number of the Councilmen went to watch the vote. After all other nominations had been transacted, Chief Higgins was elected to the Council by the appointment of a Chief Engineer for the Fire Department. The Council also acted upon a petition for street lights presented by the residents of the Third Ward. The Council decided that the petitioners were entitled to street lights, and ordered that the same be installed at once.

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## STREETS AND SEWERS.

NEW WORK PLANNED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL.

Bids for Broken Stone Solicited—Delaware Avenue to be Repaved—Berkton Street Sewer Bids, and Charles Street Sewer Ordered.

The Road Committee of the Town Council (Messrs. Conlan and Harrison) advertised this week for bids for broken stone for road repairs. The Road Committee is regarded as among the most important of the sub-committees of the Town Council. Its work is always apparent and affords the most conspicuous target for public criticism. It always has an amount of work on hand vastly in excess of the funds at its disposal, and is constantly in the habit of borrowing money from the State Treasury to carry out its work.

The Road Committee of the current year, although only a short time in charge, has graded the Charles Street extension, and is now at work on Linden Avenue, which is a most important and extensive improvement. Under the leadership of the Road Committee, the Council has taken last year and is now taking this year, has been giving some attention to the high school problem, and it is known that the management of the school is a two-sided problem. That is, the educational and the financial. The high school is one of the most important of the public schools, and it is known that the management of the school is a two-sided problem. That is, the educational and the financial.

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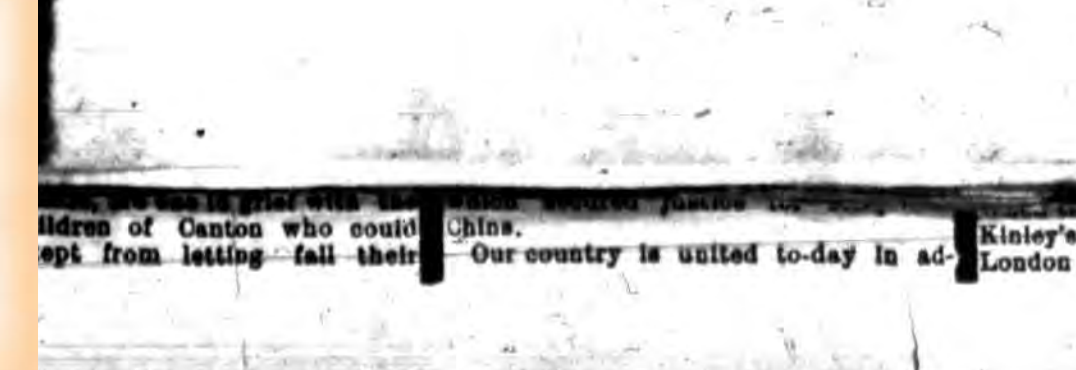
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Thomas M. Trnisky, 389 South Street, Fulton, N. Y. 13069.



Idem of Canton who could not get from letting fall their. Our country is united to-day in ad-



Kinley's portrait. London bus driver. Their women and children reach home in their own cars about two months.



Clinton Street, Bloomfield. Banner and "Bully" Round the Flag.